As regards the hospital there, I shall leave it to the Administrative Board and the Inspecting Medical Officer for their consideration.

As regards the opening of an Ayurvedic *vaidyasala*, please take it to your Municipality and ask them to help you. That is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Municipality.

Regarding your last point, the enhancement of the Government grant is very bad on principle. You must stand on your own feet. I have not seen Colachel well though I had been there once. I shall go round and see the place again.

**131. Needs of Colachel.**

MR. X. ALEXANDER (*Member, Nominated*) stated that Colachel was the most important sea-port in the State next to Alleppey. From the earliest times it was considered as a safe sea-port by the Dutch. There was, during the days of the Scottish Coffee Company, an old pier built of palmyra logs and secured to the rocks. In the absence of a pier, the boats had to negotiate the surf on every trip to a vessel and this spoiled the merchandise carried in the boats. A small pier built of iron materials about 120 yards in length to enable boatmen to take their boats beyond the surf would be a real benefit. An imperfect natural breakwater of rocks existed there and it could easily be perfected by filling in the intervening spaces by concrete. The depth varied from a few feet to 19 feet at the deepest part and ample material was available in the vicinity for the manufacture of the necessary concrete blocks. There would be a depth of 12 feet to 14 feet at the pier-head which would be sufficient for boats and larger craft to load and unload alongside the pier. An annual income of over Rs. 2,500 would be derived, and calculated at 3 per cent. interest a capital of Rs. 80,000 could be safely invested, which would be more than sufficient for the construction of the pier. With the increased export of monazite, ilmenite and Tircord sand, palmyra fibre, etc., business at the port was bound to develop. Already a considerable quantity of fish was being exported to Ceylon every year. For want of a pier, all the fish was being carted to Tuticorin for shipment. Even during the South-West Monsoon, it would be possible to launch boats and work steamers owing to the partial protection afforded by the reef of rocks. A good deal of trade diverted to other parts would converge to Colachel if conditions for the handling of cargo were made more favourable. With the development of the Cochin harbour, Alleppey would lose its importance and thus Colachel would remain the only good port, with its natural advantages. When the subject was brought to the notice of the Government at the sixteenth session of the Assembly, the then Dewan replied that the question of the Colachel pier could not be taken up as the Trivandrum pier was not complete. That objection had since been removed. The work in the Colachel pier should, therefore, be put in hand soon.

The Pampuri *vaikal* running between Colachel and the village situated to the west of it *viz.*, Kodimuna, had no bridge across it. The villagers were mostly fisher-folk who had to go to the other side for selling fish and purchase articles of food. For want of a bridge across the canal the inhabitants had to wade through it. It was a source of danger especially during the rainy season, and to the women and children in particular. The inhabitants numbered more than 10,000. In the circumstances, a bridge across the canal should be constructed without delay.

The salt manufactured in the Colachel salt factory was declining for want of good brine. The pans had not been in working order for more than 8 years because of the percolation of fresh water from the adjacent Pampuri *vaikal*. If the pans could not be improved and the factory worked in a better manner, it would be well to close it down and register the area for some useful cultivation or for purposes of soaking coccanut-husks.

The place of residence of the fisher-folk at Colachel was very congested and they had no open place for drying fish. Consequently, they were using the small patches of ground in front of their cottages for the purpose. The abominable stench arising therefrom often gave rise to epidemics. In view to improve sanitation, the Municipal Council had suggested the opening of a fish-curing yard on the *poramboke*



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land between the salt pans and the beach. But before the yard could be opened and buildings put up, the Excise Department objected to the opening of a yard at the locality on the ground of its usefulness for salt cultivation. But as the *alloms* were not being worked properly, the objection of the Excise Department was immaterial. The member therefore prayed that a fish-curing yard be opened on the site referred to.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Alexander, you have heard the remarks I made in connection with the pier at Colachel upon the representation made by the last member.

As regards the construction of a bridge over Pampuri *vaikal* between Colachel and Kodimuna, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to investigate the matter.

Then as regards defects in the working of the salt factory, the work had to come to a stand-still because the Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissoner had certain differences, and because there were certain difficulties for getting good brine. They will take up the question again and investigate it. Meanwhile I understand that the salt *alloms* do not constitute the only possible site for a fish-curing yard; there are other possibilities also, and they will be examined.

**132. Needs of the Neyyattinkara Municipality.**

MR. A. PARAMESVARAN NAIR (*Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) said that the public wells in several parts of the town were unfit for use. The Alummoottil well was an instance in point. The wells should be deepened and repaired. The benefit conferred would more than compensate the expenditure on it. It was not easy for the Municipal Council to undertake the work and therefore the Government should do it.

The bathing ghats at Kuravani *kadavu* near the local palace and at the Brahmin Street, Krishnapuram, were in disrepair. The ghats should be improved and made fit for use. The improvement of the bathing ghat at Kuravani would also add to the safety of the walls of the palace buildings.

Parapet walls should be put up on both sides of the Kuttapana and Maruttur bridges and of the Tattankarai descent. On account of the absence of such protection, accidents were frequent.

The member's next suggestion was to transfer the revenue from the *poramboke* lands and the trees thereon within municipal limits to the Municipal Council.

There were one toddy and three arrack shops within the municipal limits. They were a menace to the peace of a small municipal town. Women and children passing along the roads near the shops were harassed by the drunkards there. One of the four shops was located near the motor junction and another near the local church. All the four shops should be removed outside the municipal limits.

There were 103 girl students in the local English School for boys. That was undesirable. The number of girl students would have been much larger, had it not been for the fact that parents were not willing to send their daughters to the Boys' School. A separate English School for girls should therefore be opened at Neyyattinkara. If finances would not permit its immediate opening, a proper headmaster should be posted to the Boys' School.

The playground attached to the English School was very small and should be extended by the acquisition of additional lands.

There was no pathway from the western side of the school to the main road. The distance between the two places was only one-fourth of a furlong. It would be a great benefit if a pathway be opened.

The existing town limits were not duly fixed. They should be extended westward as far as the 8th mile and some portions within the existing limits should be excluded.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Paramesvaran Nair, your Malayalam is of such a very high order that I am afraid I could not understand all that you said; so if I do not speak on all your points it is simply because you were speaking above my head.

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